



As President of the California Athletic Trainers Association, I am requesting that California Athletic Trainers (n = 2700+) be considered as essential healthcare providers and be granted vaccination permission within the first distribution group (Phase 1A) for the COVID-19 vaccine.

Recognized by the American Medical Association for over thirty years, and nationally board certified as healthcare professionals, athletic trainers collaborate with physicians to provide preventative services, emergency care, clinical diagnosis, therapeutic intervention and rehabilitation of injuries/illnesses to numerous stakeholders including, but not limited to, secondary school and intercollegiate athletes, patients in medical and hospital settings, clients in public sports medicine clinics, industrial work settings and numerous other arenas. Athletic trainers are also recognized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services as being eligible for a National Provider Identifier (NPI).

In addition, athletic trainers and athletic training students are recognized for their respective roles as healthcare providers by the Board of Certification, Inc., an independent, not for profit credentialing agency, which establishes both the standards for practice of athletic training and the continuing education requirements for the BOC Certified Athletic Trainer. During the pandemic, athletic trainers have served on the front lines, providing exceptional service to many high-risk populations and high-risk environments.

It is with this information, that the California Athletic Trainers Association ask that you accept athletic trainers who provide their NPI and BOC, Inc. documentation, along with their employment setting describing their healthcare role and athletes/patients/clients within the first distribution group for the COVID-19 vaccine.

**DR. KY E. KUGLER, ED.D, ATC**  
California Athletic Trainers' Association  
President